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SIPDIS

STATE FOR DRL CHRISTOPHER CAMPONOVO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/19/2020  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [AS](#)  
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS APDP ELECTION OBSERVATIONS IN  
THE SOLOMONS AND BOUGAINVILLE

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Edgard D. Kagan for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and AusAID officials told DRL Senior Advisor Christopher Camponovo that Australia supported Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership's (APDP) involvement in monitoring upcoming elections in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville. End summary

¶2. (C) Australians not only expressed enthusiasm for the suggested APDP organized election observation missions (EOMs) in the Solomons and Bougainville, Tim Bryson, an Executive Officer in DFAT's Papua New Guinea section, suggested APDP fielded observers for proposed elections in Tonga.

¶3. (C) Both DFAT and AusAID participants admitted that Papua New Guinea and Solomons officials and citizens might prefer election observers from regional countries other than Australia because of a shared history of Australian rule and influence. APDP is presently chaired by the Republic of Korea. and its EOM participants come from a range of Asian and Pacific countries.

¶4. (C) The DFAT and AusAID participants all emphasized the difficulties involved, especially the logistics of moving between numerous islands and traveling over uncertain roads. They universally suggested that APDP and its NGO partners, which would be administering the election observation teams, work closely with other stakeholders on the ground, who could offer vehicles, water transport, and accommodations.  
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